

# BSU Convention To Offer Chri

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The 1979 Mississippi Baptist Student Union Convention, Oct. 19-21 in Jackson, will feature a mime team from Texas, a missionary to Indonesia, and a number of vocational and special interest conferences.

The convention, to be held at Jackson's Colonial Heights Baptist Church, will include conferences on the Christian Perspective on Euthanasia, on Abortion, Relating to Racial Problems in Education, How to Relate to Those Who Have Different Morals at Work, Husband-Wife Work Teams, Dealing With Nuclear Power, and World Hunger.

Rap sessions will also be offered with former summer missionaries and on home and foreign missions and on seminary education.

For students looking toward vocational decisions, conferences will be offered in such areas as engineering, medicine, business, education, Christian entertainment, church-related work, politics, homemaking, communications, agricultural missions, law, and Christian social work.

The program begins with registration Friday, Oct. 19, at 4 p.m. at the church, with the first session beginning at 7 that evening. The convention, which should have representation from 26 colleges and universities in

Mississippi which have Baptist Student work, concludes at 10:15 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 21.

Donny Monk, a contemporary Christian artist and composer from Leesburg, Va., will open the evening's program with a mini-concert. He will be followed by Bryan and Marguerite Humphrey, the mime team from Fort Worth, Tex.

Charles Baker, pastor of University Heights Baptist Church in Stillwater, Okla., will give the keynote address Friday night.

The Saturday morning program begins at 9 a.m. with Frances Spain, former public relations director for

the Department of Education for Louisiana. Then the vocation conferences will take place.

After lunch will be the business session which will include a vote on the proposed 1979-80 student missions program. The state Student Missions Committee is proposing that the state BSU appoint 75 students for summer missions and raise \$60,000 to support them.

After the business sessions will be the special interest conference and some afternoon free time.

The Saturday evening program will feature a parade of flags, and a film on the Student Conference on World Mis-

sions which is to take place in Nashville, Dec. 27-31, 1979.

Jerry Rankin, missionary to Indonesia, and Tupelo native, will offer the missions message. Campus altars will follow, then Donny Monk will give a concert.

BSU Across the Convention will be the topic of a talk by Howard Bramlett, representative from National Student Ministries of the Sunday School Board in Nashville, at 8:30 Sunday morning.

And testimonies from 1979 summer missionaries will precede the commitment message by James Scirratt, pastor of Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Jackson.

The convention is sponsored by the Department of Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jerry Merriman, director.

Bill Branch, a student at Mississippi State University, is president of the state Baptist Student Union. His hometown is Kenner, La.



Monk



Spain



Baker



Rankin



Scirratt



Bryan and Marguerite Humphrey

## Life-Changing Results Sought At BYW Retreat

By Marilyn Hopkins, Consultant, WMU Department

The Baptist Young Women Retreat Oct. 19-20 at Garaywa will be centered around the theme, "Because I Have... I Must Give." During the weekend BYWs will be challenged to make Life-Changing Commitments, as they seek to change their world. The Baptist Young Women will look at their lives — seek to discover how God is working through them to bring about a change in His world.

BYWs will come together Friday evening, October 19, at 6:30 p.m. for supper, with the evening session beginning at 7:30 that evening. The program will conclude Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. Each BYW should bring sheets (single bed), blanket, or sleeping bag, pillow case, Contempo, Bible, and a notebook. Pillows are furnished by Camp Garaywa.

The weekend cost is \$12.00. This includes meals, room, insurance and programming. Registration deadline

is Monday, October 15, and is not refundable after this date. Registration will begin at 5:00 p.m. at Garaywa.

Program features will carry out the theme through Bible study, missionary speakers, BYW method conferences, fellowship, and music.

Mrs. Jerry (Bobbie) Rankin, foreign missionary, Jember, Indonesia, will tell about the work she and her husband do in Jember and their special assignment to India before arriving home for furlough.

Young women will see the needs overseas — see the needs in the United States — and the needs here in Mississippi. The weekend will provide the opportunity to each person to embark on a pilgrimage of many dimensions — responding to world missions as a career missionary or volunteer to win our world to Christ.

Every young woman 18 through 29, single or married, is urged to attend as we look at our life-styles and how we

(Continued on page 2)

## Positive Witness Given While Others Protest

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — While others protested the presence of Soviet athletes in Knoxville, members of the Island Home Baptist Church took them on a tour of their church and informally told them about Jesus Christ.

The Russians were in Knoxville for a Soviet Sports Exhibit to promote the 1980 Olympics and the opportunity for Americans to tour Russia as they attend the Olympic games in Moscow.

Protests came when the exhibit was scheduled for the newly-opened City-County Building in Knoxville. Local officials and the news media received many phone calls objecting to the Soviet flag being flown over the building, along with the American and Tennessee flags, according to David G. Peach, pastor of the Island Home Baptist Church.

He said a local Jewish group called for the release of Jewish prisoners and for permission for the migration of Jews from the U.S.S.R. Also, he said, a Christian group called for the release of all religious prisoners and for religious freedom in Russia.

In the midst of negative reaction, Peach seized an opportunity for a posi-

tive impact in international understanding by inviting the Russians to the church for an informal exchange of ideas about beliefs and philosophies.

"I discovered the Russians to be very friendly and open," said Peach after visiting the exhibit. "They have a great curiosity about our people and our way of life."

Peach arranged for nine Russians to visit the church to talk and exchange

(Continued on page 2)



Frederic Damage

Ingalis Avenue Baptist Church, Pascagoula, sustained loss of its steeple, and water damage, during Hurricane Frederic. A pictorial survey of other church damage along the Mississippi coast is on page 3. Editorial comment on the disaster is on page 4.

## Religion Bill In India Arouses Strong Protests

BANGALORE, India (BP) — A bill currently before India's lower house of Parliament would restrict Christian witness if passed, but the new government has stated the bill will not be accepted.

The Freedom of Religion Bill, introduced by O. P. Tyagi, would prevent "conversion by force," which Rebekah A. Naylor, Southern Baptist missionary press representative, said could include presentation of God's judgment and the result of sin.

Social ministries, including hospitals such as the one operated by Southern Baptists in Bangalore, India, could

be suspected of using physical ministry to force conversion, added Naylor, a missionary physician.

In introducing the bill, Tyagi said it was to protect all religious minorities in India, including Christians.

Presentation of the bill resulted in massive demonstrations all over India by Christian groups, Naylor said. "Often the Christians were joined by other minorities such as Muslims in the protests."

The new Janata (secular) government has categorically stated that the bill will not be accepted, Naylor said. Tyagi is a member of the Janata party.

Published Since 1877

JACKSON MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1979

Volume CIII, Number 34

Jackson: Nov. 13-15

# Causey And Baker To Open State Baptist Convention

Mississippi speakers lead off in the first sessions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Nov. 13-15, in Jackson at First Baptist Church.

The annual meeting of the convention for which nearly 2,000 churches are qualified to send messengers, will feature Bill Causey and Bill Baker, both Baptist pastors.

Causey, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, elected last year, will deliver the president's address during the opening session of the convention. Baker will give the convention's annual sermon during the Tuesday afternoon session.

Causey is pastor of Jackson's Parkway Baptist Church. A Greenville native, he is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

He has been pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Kentucky, Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian; and has been at Parkway for the past 16 years.

Baker, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clinton since 1973, is a graduate of Mississippi State University. He earned the master of arts from the University of Mississippi and has a PhD in history from Mississippi State. Also a graduate of New Orleans Seminary, he has been pastor of Mantee Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, Calhoun City.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will be in charge of the Tuesday evening session which will emphasize missions.

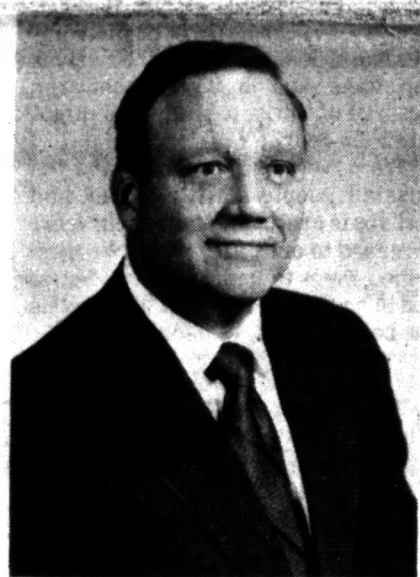
Immediately following the Tuesday evening session, will be a reception honoring missionaries and chaplains in the Baptist Building which is across the street from First Baptist Church.

Wednesday morning will offer Wendell Belew of the Home Mission Board as featured speaker and Wednesday afternoon will have Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., speaking.

Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, will be worship leader for the Wednesday evening session.

And Thursday morning will feature W. C. Fields of the SBC executive

(Continued on page 2)



Causey



Baker

## "Turn Your Radio On"

More than 170,000 listeners and viewers since October have written the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in response to its programs.

An impressive 171,290 letters were received from October through June at the Baptist agency. That's up nearly 45,000 letters from the same period of 1977-78 when 126,617 letters came in.

Total June response to the Commission's radio and television programs heard on 3,652 stations was 13,405. Last year, letters received in June were tallied at 8,579.

The popular teenage-oriented radio show, "Powerline," again ranked in the most audience response in June with 7,241 letters. Of that number, 797 writers asked for counseling with personal problems.

"Country Crossroads," a country music and interview radio program with a Christian emphasis, pulled in 4,584 June letters, with 62 listeners requesting spiritual help.

# SBC Executive Committee Approves \$90 Million Budget

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, during its September meeting, installed its new executive secretary, approved a \$90 million budget for recommendation to the convention next June, and heard a report from the convention registration secretary on registration procedures.

The role of laymen in Bold Mission Thrust also was given special attention during the committee meeting.

Harold C. Bennett was installed as executive secretary during the Monday evening session of the meeting. The entire session was devoted to the installation. Brooks Wester, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, and chairman of the Executive Committee, was in charge of the service.

The total basic operating budget to be recommended for next year is \$74.5 million. The total capital needs budget, which has already been established as part of the capital needs distribution program for 1978-1984, is \$2.5 million. The additional \$13 million is a Bold Mission Thrust Challenge budget.

The matter of the registration of messengers for the Southern Baptist Convention was referred to the Executive Committee's Administrative Committee for continued consideration.

In a session crammed with business, the Executive Committee considered a great number of issues:

During the convention in June the members of First Baptist Church,

Ridgeland, had expressed concern "that all Southern Baptist Convention officers will have a definite commitment to the Bible as expressed in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement adopted by the convention in 1963 and reaffirmed in 1979 in Houston." The committee expressed appreciation to First Church, Ridgeland, for its concern.

Owen Cooper, committee member for Yazoo City, suggested that "the committee on order of business be encouraged to continue to place a layperson or laypersons on the program of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention," and the committee agreed.

For the Convention in 1981 in Los Angeles the Los Angeles Hilton Hotel was named as the headquarters hotel, and for the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting the Los Angeles Bonaventure Hotel was selected as the headquarters hotel.

The committee looked at the planning of exhibits at conventions and limited exhibits to seven categories. They are SBC agencies and committees, the local committee of the host city, the local committee of the host city for the following year, the Baptist World Alliance, the state conventions and local associations, the American Bible Society, and the members of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

Block Reservations Regulations were made concerning block reservations at conventions. Requests in writing must be made

prior to July 15 for the next year. A random drawing will establish the order in which the requests will be considered. If a group has a block of rooms and does not use at least two-thirds of the rooms, then that group will have to wait until all other requests are filled if it makes a request the next year. Rooms in block reservations that are not claimed by March 1 will be released to the general public. These new guidelines do not affect the guidelines established in 1976, nor do they pertain to the Executive Committees of the Southern Baptist Convention or the Woman's Missionary Union.

In the future the convention arrangements work group and the host city will be asked to attempt to provide private home accommodations for the messengers who would desire them and make the fact known in the state papers.

A budget of \$39,500 was set for image magnification for the St. Louis convention next year, but image magnification screens will not be used for the 1981 convention in Los Angeles.

A 7 percent cost of living salary increase was authorized for Executive Committee employees, effective Oct. 1.

For ordained staff members of the Executive Committee a housing and utility allowance for tax purposes of up to 35 percent of salary was established, and a five percent housing supplement was provided for the non-ordained staff members.

(Continued on page 2)



## FMB To Enter 96th Country

## FMB Votes Funds For Storm Victims, Refugees

By Robert L. Stanley  
RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Faced with major relief needs on two sides of the world, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has voted \$70,000 to help feed refugees fleeing oppression in Cambodia and approved funds released earlier on an emergency basis for Caribbean hurricane victims.

The board had to scrape the bottom of its general relief fund barrel to find \$35,000 to buy medical supplies, blankets and other non-food items needed immediately by the thousands of people left homeless by Hurricane David.

Almost no general relief money is left to help more than 60,000 Cambodian refugees huddled without shelter or food along the Thailand border. The \$70,000 voted from hunger relief funds will provide food for these refugees, but other funds are needed to provide tents, medicine, or nets to protect against the swarming mosquitoes.

**Cambodian Refugees**  
Area Secretary William R. Wakefield, in an urgent telephone request from Bangkok, Thailand, estimated that between 60,000 and 70,000 Cambodian refugees have been living along the Thai border for weeks, hoping for entrance into the neighboring country.

**Hurricane David**  
The Foreign Mission Board also received reports on progress of relief efforts in the Caribbean, where Hurricane David devastated the tiny island of Dominica and took a heavy toll in both lives and property on the Dominican Republic. Martinique received a glancing blow from the storm.

W. Eugene Grubbs, consultant for

laymen overseas and relief ministries, said the U.S. Department informed him Southern Baptists were the first on the scene with relief for Dominica. John R. Cheyne, associate consultant for relief ministries, accompanied the first U.S. teams into Dominica and personally conveyed \$10,000 in Southern Baptist funds and \$5,000 in Baptist World Alliance aid to begin relief work there.

A total of \$90,000 in relief and hunger funds has been appropriated for relief ministries on the two islands.

Area Secretary Charles W. Bryan expressed gratitude to God for the safety of all 35 Southern Baptist missionaries and personnel who were on the three islands hardest hit by the hurricane. He praised the relief and medical efforts as "one of the finest responses we've been able to make to a disaster of this magnitude."

Southern Baptists entered Bophuthatswana, another of the 10 tribal homelands in South Africa, in 1977.

## Sudan Entry

Work will start Jan. 1 in the Sudan, Africa's largest country, which is bordered by Egypt and Ethiopia on the Southeast. Recent visits convinced field representative James E. Hampton and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald R. Bodenhamer, a Kenya missionary couple, that the Bodenhamers should begin work in the southern portion where a majority of the black population are animists.

The Bodenhamers' transfer, effective Jan. 1, would make the Sudan the 96th Southern Baptist mission field if no other new areas are entered late in 1979.



## Pastoral Leadership Conference

These men were in attendance at a recent meeting at the Baptist Building in Jackson. The meeting was on the theme "Pastoral Leadership for Growth and Priority." It was sponsored by the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. From left to right are Walter Price, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fulton; Gary Breland, pastor of Gum Springs Baptist Church, Braxton; Bruce Grubbs, of the Baptist Sunday School Board and guest lecturer; and James Scirrat, pastor of Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson. Price came the farthest for the meeting, and Breland and Scirrat were pastors of the smallest and largest churches represented.

The old Jordan-Prince Williams central school building in Nassau is being renovated into offices, a workroom and an auditorium for the use of the executives and committees of the Bahamas National Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention. This building is next door to the present headquarters, which are in a small house converted for the purpose.

Washington (EP) — A combination of tightened controls and bad weather has caused a dramatic drop in the flow of Indochinese refugees from more than 65,000 in May to less than 8,000 in the first half of August, says the U.S. State Department. Tabulations show refugees entering other Southeast Asian nations dropped to 56,890 in June, and to 27,208 in July.

## SBC Executive Committee Approves \$90 Million Budget

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Dental insurance as a part of the hospitalization and medical insurance plan was added for committee employees.

Resolutions of appreciation were adopted for two retiring state executive secretaries. They were for John I. Snedden of West Virginia and Ray E. Roberts of Ohio.

At the request of the convention the committee considered the production and distribution of Soul-Winner's New Testaments and referred the matter to the Sunday School Board and the Home Mission Board.

## Loan Authorization

Midwestern Seminary was authorized to borrow up to an amount equivalent to the "shortfall" of Cooperative Program gifts to cover possible shortage of capital needs funds resulting from less Cooperative Program receipts than anticipated for the 1978-79 Cooperative Program budget. And the seminary was authorized to borrow up to \$146,000 against individual contributors' pledges for interim financing for the construction of a child development center.

The Christian Life Commission had requested funding for a consortium on

TV rating system. This was referred back to the commission with the request that it be made a part of the commission's 1980-81 Cooperative Program allocation budget request.

A convention resolution on local church mission teams was referred to the bold mission thrust steering committee for study of its relationship to the Bold Mission Thrust and to the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, the Brotherhood Commission, and the Woman's Missionary Union for implementation.

Finally, the committee requested the Bold Mission Thrust Steering

Committee to call together an ad hoc consultation of skilled laymen to think through the implementation of Bold Mission Thrust. The Brotherhood Commission was requested to assume responsibility for organizing and staffing at least 10 regional conferences. The agencies involved in Volunteers in Missions were requested to add to their listing of volunteers the names of laymen with a wide variety of unique skills. And the state conventions were urged to form ad hoc advisory committees and work groups to enable them to use the wisdom and skills of "eminently qualified laymen."



Brooks Wester and the Harold Bennetts.

## Causey, Baker To Open Baptist Convention

(Continued from Page 1)

committee and John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., who will close out the convention with messages.

Business sessions during the convention will include election of officers, and a vote on a 1980 budget of \$11.2 million. Thirty-three percent of this budget would go to Southern Baptist Convention causes outside Mississippi. The rest would go to Mississippi Baptist programs and agencies.

Other business matters could include discussion and votes on resolutions which are brought before the convention by individual messengers. No information on possible resolutions has been forthcoming as yet.

The Tuesday afternoon session will include a special feature by John Newport of Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., on the occult. And Wednesday afternoon there will be offered a choice of a number of mini-sessions on various areas of Baptist work.

At each of the seven sessions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, a "Bible Treasure" will be presented. These are short, 15-minute devotional messages.

Speakers for these interludes will be

## Arthur Farmer Named Ill. Interim

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP) — Arthur E. Farmer will serve as interim executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association until a successor is found for James Smith, who resigned to become executive director of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Farmer, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Carbondale, Ill., recently retired as the Illinois Baptist special ministries director. He will work on a part-time basis, a day or two a week, as interim executive secretary.

Wendell Garrison, pastor of the Win-Stanley Baptist Church, Fairview Heights, Ill., is chairman of a committee to find a permanent successor for Smith.

## Jack Glaze Will Chair MC Division Of Religion

Two new faculty members have been approved by the Board of Trustees of Mississippi College for the Division of Religion.

A. Jackson Glaze, missionary to Argentina, will chair the Division of Religion and serve as professor of religion. He succeeds the late W. W. Stevens. Roger Greene



Glaze

Greene has been named associate professor of religion. Glaze, a native of D'Lo, received the B.A. from Mississippi College and Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary.

Since 1955 he has been Professor of Old Testament at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was president of the institution, 1966-1974, and Director of Graduate Studies from 1977 until the present.

While on leave from the Foreign Mission Board from 1975-77, he was visiting professor of Old Testament interpretation at Louisville.

Glaze is married to the former Jean Johnson of Greenwood, S.C. Two of their children are graduates of Mississippi College and the other two are currently enrolled.

Because of commitments on the mission field, Glaze will not join the faculty until December, 1979.

## Roger Greene

Roger Greene, a native of Natchitoches, La., has been named an associate professor of religion. He holds a B.A. in English from Louisiana Tech. At Southern Seminary he earned both Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

Since 1975, he has served as assistant professor of religion at Palm Beach Atlantic College in Lake Park, Fla.

He is married to the former Martha Julia Dickerson of Jonesboro, Louisiana, and they are the parents of two sons, ages seven and four.

Greene's areas of specialization include New Testament language, New Testament literature, New Testament history, and Christian ethics.

## Life-Changing Results Sought

(Continued from Page 1)

can change our world through life-changing commitment.

Mrs. W. C. (Frances) Tyler, professor of Bible, Blue Mountain College, will lead the Bible study during the Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon sessions.

BYWs methods conferences will be offered and lead by Mrs. Kenneth (Elaine) Rhodes, Poplarville and Mrs. Elton (Linda) Whitley, Tupelo, who were WMU camp conference leaders in the area of Baptist Young Women. Don't forget the October 15 deadline!

For more information write or telephone, Marilyn Hopkins, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 (Telephone 354-3704).

Information needed with registration: church name, number attending, amount of money enclosed, person sending reservation, and address and telephone (office and home) of person sending reservation. Send to Marilyn Hopkins at above address.

## Jack Gritz Retires Early In Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP) — The board of directors of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma approved a motion that Jack Gritz, editor of the Baptist Messenger, retire early, effective Sept. 11.

Gritz, who will be 63 in December, observed his 30th anniversary as editor of the Oklahoma Baptist weekly news publication, July 31. He has served longer than any current editor of one of 34 state Baptist newspapers.

Before joining the paper in 1949, when he succeeded Albert McClellan as editor, Gritz was a pastor in Oklahoma and former associate secretary of the state convention's department of religious education.

A native of Okmulgee, Okla., Gritz is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and earned the master of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and the doctor of theology degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

## Positive Witness Given While Others Protest

(Continued from Page 1)  
ideas. They met with several church members and the pastor. Peach talked with them about the church, the denomination and Baptist beliefs.

"But most exciting of all, I was able to share the message of salvation," Peach said. "As I explained about Christ and God's plan for man, they displayed a genuine interest. They offered many sincere questions and a discussion ensued."

"They told of their beliefs and made an honest effort to understand ours. It was a time of openness and sharing. No converts were made, but it is our prayer that the seed has been planted. They had never before heard the plan of salvation. Their response was one of interest and curiosity."

Peach said they were able to discuss religious freedom in the U.S.S.R., and that the Russians knew about Georgi Vins and other Russian Baptists who have been persecuted.

"It proved to be a great experience," Peach said, "perhaps one of the greatest of my life. It was our concern that we leave them with a positive impression of people who call themselves Christians, and that we present the message of Christ to those who might not again hear it."

"We have come to understand the Russian people a little better and perhaps to overcome some of our fears in regard to our differences. We have helped them to understand us better and to accept the fact that we practice our belief in God," Peach said.

## Northwest Leader Named New Florida Executive

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Dan C. Stringer, executive director-treasurer of the Northwest Baptist Convention for eight years, has been elected executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

Stringer, 41, will assume his Florida position Nov. 1. He succeeds Harold C. Bennett, who resigned to become executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

"Leaving the Northwest has been a real grief experience for my wife and me," Stringer told Baptist Press. "It has been frontier territory, especially with the expansion of the work in Canada."



Stringer

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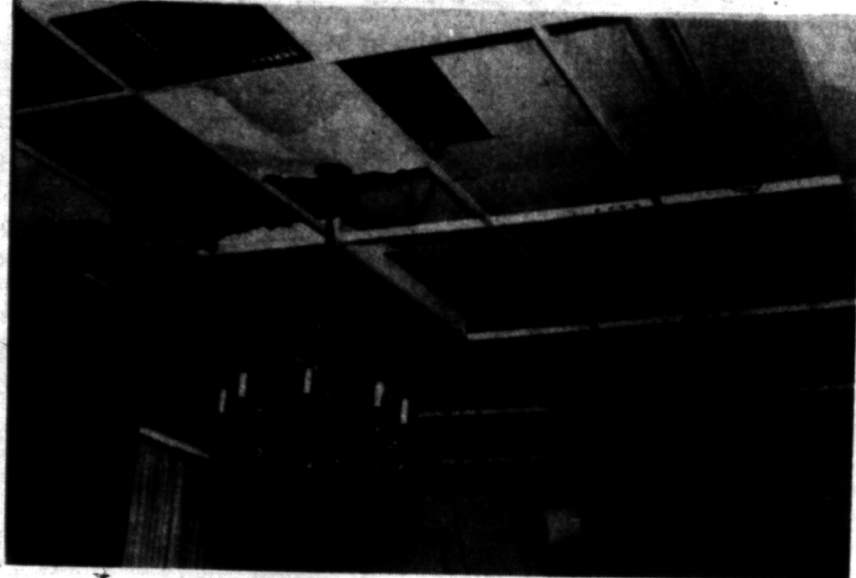
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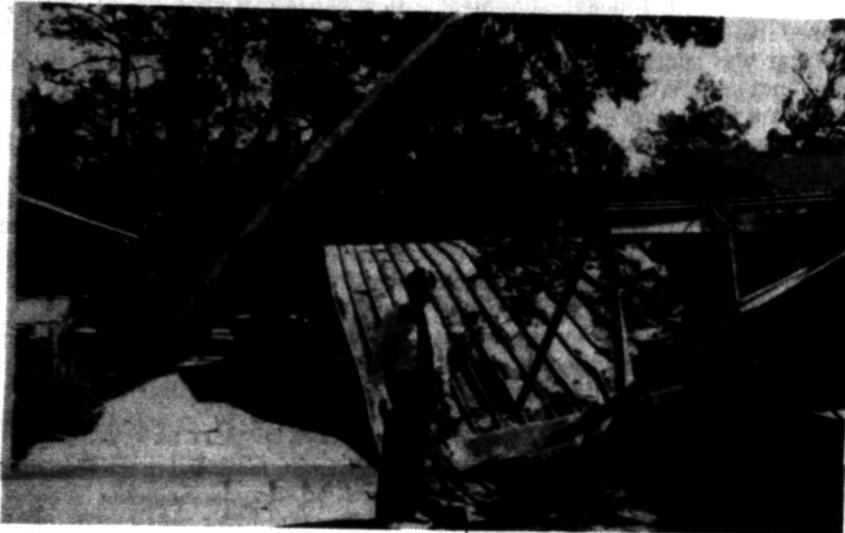
# Frederic Left A Mess



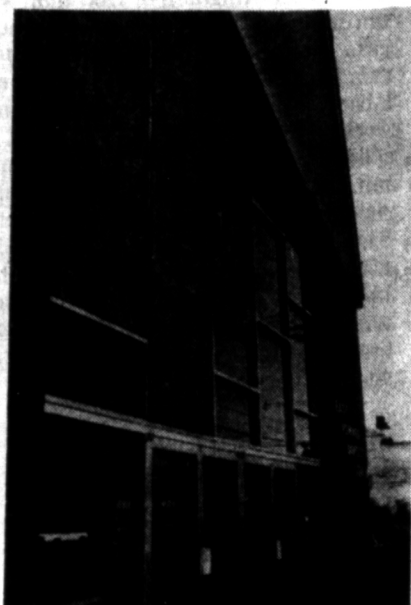
Baptist Seamen's Center, Pascagoula.



Pass Road Baptist Church, Gulfport.



FBC, Biloxi pastor, Frank Gunn at his home.



Bel Aire Baptist Church, Gulfport.



Unity Baptist Church, Pascagoula.



First Baptist Church, Moss Point.

## Newsbriefs

**Princeton, N. J. (EP)** — Religious prejudice in the United States has recorded a major decline in the last quarter century, says the latest Gallup Poll. The survey, which interviewed 1,500 adults from May 4 to May 7, found a drop both in the numbers of people who were concerned about Catholics and Jews having too much power and in those who have had experiences that made them dislike Catholics, Protestants, or Jews.

A 1952 poll found that 41 percent of the Protestants surveyed felt Catholics were trying to gain too much power in the nation. That figure dropped to 30 percent in 1965, and fell to 11 percent in the latest survey. Protestants made up about 45 percent of the people questioned in the most recent poll.

**New York (EP)** — Religious leaders from several traditions have stepped up their attacks on the new Monty Python film "Life of Brian," calling it "blasphemy" and "sacrilege." "Life of Brian" depicts a fictional contemporary of Jesus, who spouts obscenities and has a mother who is a prostitute. "Brian" is a reluctant messiah born on Christmas night, who joins the People's Liberation Front of Judea and is crucified by the Roman Army.

**Washington (EP)** — The U. S. Catholic Church kicked off a campaign here to evangelize an estimated 80 million unchurched Americans, including some 12 million "fallen away" Catholics.

**Chattanooga, Tenn. (EP)** — A voluntary Bible study program, recently redesigned to make it objective and descriptive and with religious tests for teachers eliminated, has been approved by a federal judge for use in the public schools of Chattanooga and surrounding Hamilton County.

**St. Johns, Ohio (EP)** — A United Methodist minister in this small West Central Ohio community has found a unique way to raise money for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Churchwide Disaster Appeal. Larry Swaisgood played ping pong; for 27 hours and 14 minutes and raised nearly \$400 which will be turned over to UMCOR to aid the victims of last spring's tornadoes and floods in Oklahoma and Texas, Mississippi and Alabama. The money came from donations and pledges for each hour of ping pong played. During the 27 years he played 184 games against 30 opponents and won 133 of the games, many while sitting in a chair.

**Help For Domestic Violence** — "A new office on Domestic Violence within the Administration for Children, Youth and Families has been created at HEW. The new office will serve as a point of coordination for all HEW research and social services related to spouse abuse. It will establish an information clearinghouse and provide technical assistance to organizations developing programs at the local level. For information, write: Office on Domestic Violence, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, P. O. Box 1182, Washington, D. C. 20013; or call: (202) 472-4205." (Media Tip-Sheet, No. 24-79-A)

## Billy Graham Makes Comments

**New York (EP)** — Evangelist Billy Graham, in a wide-ranging interview here, discussed his stand on disarmament, the Marshall Frady biography, and changes in his thinking on social issues.

Of his current position favoring disarmament, he said he had been influenced both by briefings from public officials and by studying every reference to peace in the Bible. As an example of another change in his thinking, the evangelist commented that "the mission of the church to the world is evangelism and service. I didn't use to add 'service.'"

Referring to Mr. Frady's massive biography, Billy Graham: A Parable of American Righteousness, Mr. Graham said, "A lot of his material is not exactly accurate." But the evangelist called the author "a very charming person and one that I'd like to cultivate as a friend."

Asked whether it is possible for a public official like President Carter or Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) to be a "Christian politician," Mr. Graham gave an affirmative answer. He cautioned that "the fact that a man is a Christian does not mean that he may be more competent" than one who is not, but said he did not feel it inappropriate for a public official to relate his positions to his understandings of Scripture because "people want to know what a man believes."

## Home Missions Experience

The "Home Missions Experience" begins next week, and runs Oct. 1-4 at Mississippi College in Clinton.

It will feature a number of home missionaries in workshop sessions during the days, and as speakers during the evenings.

Included will be a dramatic presentation and a musical both written by Ed Seabough of the HMB staff.

Local choirs will offer music and the public is invited to the entire program.

## Mississippi Baptist Activities

- Sept. 28-29 Acteens Leaders' Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 5 p.m., 28th-2 p.m., 29th (WMU)
- 28-29 Music Leadership Clinic, FBC, Jackson, 5:00 p.m., 28th-12:30 p.m., 29th (Church Music)
- 28 Ethnic Evangelism Institute, Baptist Building, Jackson, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Cooperative Missions)
- Sept. 30 Church Training Installation and Recognition Night (CT Emphasis)  
Sunday School Preparation (SS Emphasis — local churches)
- Oct. 4 New Staff Orientation, Baptist Building, Jackson
- Oct. 6 GA Super Saturday, Camp Garaywa, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (WMU)

## Bivocational Pastors Lead Double Lives

By Tim Nicholas

Which are they: non-stipendiary clergy, or bivocational pastors? Another denomination uses the former term. Apparently Baptists prefer the latter — though it is still fairly new in usage.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions Department recently held a series of conferences for these bivocational pastors — men who hold down a secular job in addition to being pastor of a church.

The meetings, held in Simpson, Lee, Scott and Grenada/Yalobusha Associations, were led by Hollis Bryant of the Cooperative Missions Department staff. Resource personnel included J. T. Burdine of the Home Mission Board, and Bob Johnson of Midwestern Seminary, formerly with Seminary Extension.

Plus local bivocational men led in song and with testimonies of "The Joys and Frustrations of a Bivocational Pastor."

At the Grenada/Yalobusha meeting, which took place at First Baptist Church, Water Valley, Buford Sellers gave his testimony. Pastor of Oakland Baptist Church for nearly 14 years, Sellers is also principal at Coffeeville school.

Holding down a secular job, said Sellers, "I have a lot more contact with many more people outside the church than many pastors." He added that since he has a secular income, the threat of being fired by any irate

members is a lesser thing to him.

He has a weekly radio program on WVLY radio in Water Valley that he said gave him the "possibility of preaching to over 10,000 people every week." He said he doesn't have enough time to study or to develop his home life. He would like to attend the Mississippi Baptist Convention and he gets irritated when people say such things as "Brother Sellers is not a fully dedicated man of God because he's teaching school."

Burdine of the HMB told the group that he believed bivocational pastors "have a clearer sense of call because of the 40 hours on that secular job." He cited statistics that 18 out of every 100 Southern Baptist church members have a pastor who is bivocational. And he added that the HMB has identified more than 1,200 places in the nation which need an evangelical witness but there are no funds to support a pastor. He said that bivocational pastors are likely the answer in those places.

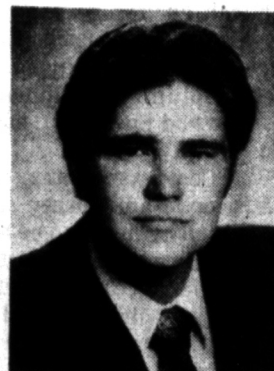
Johnson of Midwestern said that 53 percent of Southern Baptist pastors have never attended a Southern Baptist seminary.

"We are trying to reach out through seminary extension through correspondence or classes," he said. He said there is a need for training and maturing that seminary extension can aid.

"A lot of dynamic things take place when we sit down together to learn," he said. Johnson called these times "aha" moments.

## Affirming the Authority of the WORD of GOD

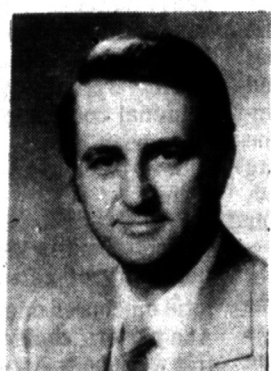
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# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Editorials

Inseparably linked . . .

## The convention, the Cooperative Program

October is Cooperative Program month for Southern Baptists, and Nov. 13 to 15 are the dates for the Mississippi Baptist Convention. In many ways the two are inseparably linked together.

It is true that the state convention was organized in 1836, and the Cooperative Program did not come into existence until 1925. The common bond of the two is missions.

The state convention exists as a way to carry out missions endeavors. The Cooperative Program exists as a way to finance missions. Both point to the Great Commission as the reason for their being.

Mississippi Baptists organized into a convention before there was a Southern Baptist Convention, which was organized in 1845. For a Texan, it is interesting to note that in the year that Texas won its independence from Mexico there were already enough Baptists in Mississippi to establish a convention organization that has continued until this day. Now we are about to have our 144th convention session.

Baptists long ago discovered the

secret of being able to cooperate in spite of their independence as a means of being better able to serve the Lord and of being better able to carry out His commission. The conventions, since 1836, have been the vehicles for working out the cooperative efforts of Mississippi Baptists.

Primarily, the conventions are times of business. We are dealing with the Lord's work, and we are financing it with the Lord's money. We cannot afford to let such matters be handled by a person or a committee without the authorization of the larger body of Baptists in the state. So we meet to hear how the work has progressed, to hear what plans have been made for continuation of the work, and to establish the guidelines and the financial arrangements for handling the work.

Now this is terribly important business, and every church in the state should seek to find those in its membership who would be able to attend the session at First Baptist Church in Jackson to help in making these decisions.

The Fifteenth Chapter of Acts gives

the account of an early gathering of Christians to make decisions that would affect the work. Conventions have continued to be very important gatherings.

The church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to attend that early meeting, and it is the duty of the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention to select and elect the people who will attend the conventions.

Make no mistake, the churches do not have to send messengers. A church may cooperate in every way and use all of the literature that is possible for it to use and participate in every program there is, and it does not have to send a messenger to the convention. But how much better informed it will be if it does send messengers. And how much more its influence will count in the affairs of the Lord's work if it does.

If there are to be messengers, it is up to the churches to select them, and every church is entitled to at least two.

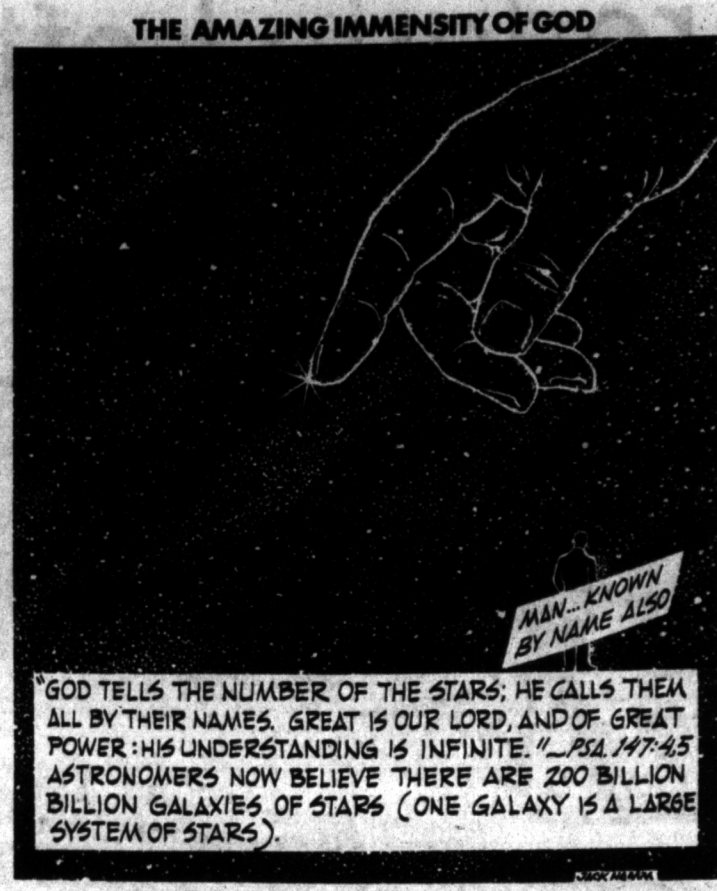
There are more than 1,900 churches in Mississippi, so there could be 4,000 messengers if every church could only

send two. Many churches are entitled to the full complement of 10 messengers. Generally, there are only about 1,000 or so in attendance. So we are carrying on the Lord's business with less than 25 per cent of those present who should be participating in the decisions.

There should be someone from every church who would be able to attend.

During October we will place special emphasis on the ministry of the Cooperative Program. It has meant more to the Kingdom of God than we can imagine. We gladly channel our gifts through the Cooperative Program because we want the fruit of our labor to be useful in every corner of our world.

Let's carry through on this commitment to ministry by having messengers from every church in attendance at the state convention to help make the decisions that will affect the ministry of the Cooperative Program and thus be involved in every endeavor that Baptists are a part of in Mississippi and around the world.



## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

### Not What It Seemed To Be

Mobile in the news last week after Hurricane Frederic reminded me of a trip I made to that section of Alabama about 12 years ago. My cousin Guy Smith lived on the bay at Point Clear. Later, a hurricane damaged his house and he moved to Fairhope.

Anyhow, Daddy and Mama and my niece Luann, and I were on our way to see him at Point Clear. We were almost there, between Fairhope and Point Clear. I was driving — I don't remember how fast — when I saw an object on my side of the highway. My long-distance vision is not as accurate as it should be, but I thought the object looked like a cardboard box.

A car was coming toward us, so I could not swerve to the left of the object. In a brief glance I could not be sure about the condition of the shoulder of the road on the right, so I thought, "If it's a pasteboard box, it won't hurt to run over it. I've hit them before."

Daddy could see, even from the back seat, that it was not a box, but he was so terrified when he saw I was going to hit it (he told me later) that his tongue simply froze to the roof of his mouth and he couldn't make a sound.

I did slow down, but not enough for impact with a piece of iron that had a sharp point sticking straight up. The object squeezed between my left front wheel and the motor, and missed both of them, but tore a hole all the way through the floorboard under the seat I was in, and made a big dent in the back floorboard under Luann's feet. If it had gone through the back as it did in the front, I don't know what it would have done to her feet and legs.

It ripped all the way through the gas tank; all the gasoline (not so expensive then) poured out on the highway. I managed to guide the car off the pavement before we stopped. In fear of an explosion we all jumped out and got away from the car. But I know the Lord must have been looking out for us, because the explosion did not

occur. A woman came out of a house beside the road and said she had seen a loaded scrap-iron truck drop the piece of metal and thought it might be dangerous, but she had not gone to remove it.

She permitted us to use her phone to call a wrecker. We called Guy: his son came to get Mama and Luann, then 9; while Daddy and I waited to see about the car repair. A wrecker from another town, (one we did not call) stopped. The driver said he would tow us in. We told him we had already called another. He said, "Oh, they are too slow! No telling when they'll get here! You ought to go ahead and let me do it." Anxious to be on our way, we listened to him.

At the repair shop Daddy and I stayed by the mechanics, trying to rush them along (and I expect aggravating them no end). The wrecker we had called appeared, and presented a bill — so we had to pay two wreckers. But we got a new gas tank and arrived at Guy's before dark.

Now doesn't that prove that things are not always what they seem to be? What I thought was a box, on close contact turned out to be something quite different.

Wine that looks red in the cup afterward can sting like an adder. A chocolate bar that looks delicious in its colorful wrapping afterward can add a roll of fat.

People aren't always what they seem to be, either. Someone may appear nice on the surface, but when you collide with him or her, the veneer is knocked off and you hear the voice of the real person underneath.

What does this mean to me? First, I can take two looks at those enticing temptations before I succumb to them. Second, I can try to make myself a person who is the same outwardly and inwardly. There's an old-fashioned saying, "What is in the well of your heart comes up in the bucket of your mouth."

Registration procedures . . .

## All should exercise care

Last June the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston asked Convention Registration Secretary Lee Porter to investigate the registration of messengers to the convention. There had been quite a political campaign mounted, and many messengers evidently wondered if it had affected the registration. Indeed, it became apparent that one of the leaders of the campaign had not been a member of the church that named him as a messenger.

But alas, he was not the only one.

Three interim pastors and their wives registered from the churches they were serving, but they weren't members of those churches. In addition there were 39 churches from which members went and registered as messengers when they had not been elected by those churches. Thirty-one of those who so registered were denominational workers.

Five foreign missionaries registered without being elected as messengers.

Porter's report was made to the Executive Committee during its Sep-

tember meeting. The committee took no action but plans to take another look at the situation in February.

Porter is recommending a number of changes, including a redesign of the registration card. Surely the Executive Committee will come to some conclusion for recommended changes. In the meantime, we can all determine to be more careful as to how we go about registering for the conventions.

No person or committee can police the registration procedure when many thousands are trying to get established

as messengers. There is no reason why there should be any police procedures necessary. We should all conduct ourselves in such a way that there would be no reason for problems in registration.

No doubt, the registration mistakes that were made were unintentional. If we are going to register, however, we need to acquaint ourselves with the procedures and follow them correctly.

Of the 16,000 who registered, only 284 seemed to be registered incorrectly. That is a very small percentage of errors, but there doesn't need to be any.

## Hurricane Frederic . . .

## A long time in forgetting

Associate Editor Tim Nicholas and I drove to Pascagoula on Thursday following Hurricane Frederic on Wednesday. We moved into a world of almost total darkness, for it was about 10 p.m. when we arrived; and there was no electric service.

The only oasis of light, almost, in the city came from the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit, which was using its own generator. Nearby, the Singing River Hospital also had emergency lights. Other than that — darkness.

Friday morning revealed an area in which almost every building had some damage. We were mostly interested in churches and homes of Baptists in our limited time for checking, but it seemed apparent immediately that almost every business in the city had major damage. That affects the income of the residents, of course. Some buildings with wide spans covering their floor space were destroyed. Others were damaged beyond use for some time.

Almost every home had some kind of damage, but we saw only a few that were ruined. Time after time residents said to us, "The Lord laid that tree down so that it just missed my house." Clark McMurray, pastor of First Baptist Church, had a tree lying on his roof; but when I last talked with him he had hopes that it could be removed

without damage. Bobby Perry, pastor of First Church, Moss Point, had 18 big trees lying in his yard; but none touched the house. Wind was so strong there that the north wall of the auditorium was moved in by some inches.

The director of missions in Jackson County, Allen Webb, and Mrs. Webb drove to Jackson before the storm and returned to the city expecting to find their home, situated on the water, in ruins; but they found it intact. Two doors down the street a house was almost demolished.

First Church, Gautier, also suffered heavy damage. Calvary Church, Pascagoula, had its steeple blown off and a hole punched in its education building. Pastor Byron Mathis said this was minimal compared to what it might have been.

Several churches lost steeples and signs.

Webb, said he had not had an opportunity of getting any sort of a total on church damage in his county. At a pastors' conference on Monday of this week he was going to try to gather a total figure.

Rusty Griffin, consultant in the Brotherhood Department, was to attend that pastors' conference meeting and gather requests for aid. The state

campers on Mission organization was also expected to move into the area with assistance. Most of what is needed, Webb said, is cleaning up the debris around the homes of the elderly and securing the damaged church building against further damage.

Five church groups have brought in loads of food and clothes, Webb said. The need is more for food than clothes, because few lost their clothes. The food need seems to be abating, but there could be some need still present, he indicated. This was another item to be determined at the pastors' conference.

Those church groups responding with food were First Church, Carriere; Grace Memorial, Picayune; a group from Columbia; Ephesus Church, Forest; and Lowndes County Association.

Over in Gulf Coast Association, Director of Missions Sam Turner said damage would run higher than he had first expected. He now expects the total to be close to \$250,000; but most of the churches, losses will be covered by insurance, he said. Only one, Olivet, had no insurance. It was negotiating with an insurance company when the storm hit. The church is borrowing \$3,000 to enable it to get things back in shape, but the need is greater than that, according to Turner.

Both Pass Road and First Church, Biloxi, had about \$40,000 in damage. First Church Pastor Frank Gunn sustained about \$6,000 in damages to his home. Calvary Church had \$8,000, Bel Aire had \$20,000, and East Howard had \$10,000.

While there has been no state-wide fund raising effort initiated, the greatest need is for money. Money will take care of needs such as physical damage and food. Those who are interested in making donations might send them directly to the associations, or they could send them to the offices of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The checks sent to the board offices should be clearly designated so that there could be no mistake about the use of the money and what area it is to be sent to.

There was some amount of wind damage at both William Carey College in Hattiesburg and at Clarke College in Newton. Both colleges suspended classes on the day following the hurricane. At Carey there were some wind-downs out in dorms and some damage from leaks.

As was the case with the Easter flood in Jackson, perhaps those away from the scene are prone to feel that now that the storm is over it can be forgotten. But those who lived through it will be a long time in forgetting.—DTM

## October — Cooperative Program Month

October is prayer time for the ministries supported through the Cooperative Program. Also, we need to make known the tremendous impact in the world today. You would have to take more than 30 special offerings each year to accomplish what the Cooperative Program is doing. It's a unique plan, blessed of God, and has brought blessings to people in 94 countries, plus our nation, state, and community. The Cooperative Program is our pipeline to the world.

(January-August 1979)

185 Churches gave nothing in 1978 or 1979 through the Cooperative Program  
50 Churches gave in 1978 but nothing thus far in 1979  
396 Churches gave less in 1979 than in previous year  
1,285 Churches gave more in 1979 than in previous year  
56 Churches gave the same amount both years  
63 Churches gave nothing in 1978 but are now contributing

Kelly, Dr. Foy Rogers, and others.

I have a special request to make of you.

I would like very much for you and all other editors throughout the Southern Baptist Convention to call upon all the Christians to unite in prayer that God will, in his own way, reveal himself to Madalyn Murray O'Hair in such an unforgettable way that she will praise Him rather than curse Him.

This has been my prayer for months, and I would like for those who believe in prayer to join me.

We say we believe in prayer. I challenge all men and women everywhere to begin now and not stop until the answer comes.

V. R. Crider, Pastor  
Damascus Baptist Church  
Flora

### Credit Omitted

Editor:  
Due to an oversight, the following identification and credit was omitted from the "Communing with God" section of the October 1979 issue of *Mature Living*. The editorial staff of *Mature Living* regrets this error and any inconvenience it may have caused Dr. Hammett.

Unless otherwise indicated, all material in this month's inspirational section was written by Dr. Horace G. Hammett, Columbia, S. C., former general secretary-treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Mrs. Clint Malugen  
Assistant editor  
Mature Living

### Students At Penn State

Editor:  
There is a strong and growing Southern Baptist Church in State College, Pa., the home of Penn State University. If you would urge your readers to send us the names and addresses of Baptist or non-Baptist students and/or acquaintances coming to Penn State this fall, we will do our best to minister to them.

Thank you for helping us to build a strong Baptist witness in Pennsylvania.

Dennis L. Back, Pastor  
South Hills Baptist Church  
1524 University Dr.  
State College, Pa. 16801

## Letters To The Editor

### Disaster Unit — Tremendous

Editor:

Leila Mae and I drove back home from Jackson after the hurricane, not expecting to find anything left of our home. We were overjoyed to find that the damage was only minor in nature.

The next thing that brought real joy was when we saw the operation of our Mississippi Baptist Disaster Unit. It was very significant that Rusty Griffin and his volunteers were on the spot serving meals from one to two days before any other agency was in operation. It gave evidence of real training and efficiency. We were there when the need was the greatest to serve the hungry when food was not available elsewhere.

When the disaster unit was dedicated, I thought, "That is a nice idea," but when I saw it in operation in a disaster area, I said "Thank God, this is

great."

The people of our area are bouncing back to normalcy now, but I am sure that many will remember looking up after being served to see overhead "Mississippi Baptist Disaster Unit."

Allen D. Webb  
Director of Missions  
Jackson Association

### Fruit that is Eternal

Editor:

Southwestern has had another fall of unprecedented enrollment, 3,564 as compared to 3,447 last fall. What a thrilling, awesome opportunity.

In still another way we are communicating to each student the investment Southern Baptists are making in his or her theological training. The enclosed void bill gives you an actual copy of the average Cooperative Program "scholarship" to each student.

May the Lord continue to guide you

in your leadership role and in Cooperative Program support. Dr. Dilday and the rest of the Southwestern family commit our best to bear fruit that is eternal through the preparing of God-called men and women for the ministry. Pray for us.

Lloyd Elder  
Executive Vice-President  
Southwestern Seminary

The scholarship figure is \$620.—Editor

### Prayer For Mrs. O'Hair

Editor:

Perhaps you have never heard of me. My age and health have kept me out of the public affairs of our state convention. I am still pastoring a small church at age 71 and have no thought of retiring.

You may ask some of the old-timers around Baptist Building about me; Dr.

**The Baptist Record**  
(ISSN-0005-5778)  
515 Mississippi Street  
Jackson, Miss. 39201  
Don McGregor Editor  
Tim Nicholas Associate Editor  
Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate  
Official Journal of  
The Mississippi Baptist Convention  
Bill Causey President  
Earl Kelly Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
The Baptist Building  
Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205  
Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Gary Holman, Pascagoula; Odean Puckett, Natchez; Lewis Boyd, Oxford; Claude Sutherland, Jackson; Beverly Yarns, Meridian; Clarence Wilkison, Clinton.  
Subscriptions \$3.75 a year payable in advance.  
Published weekly except week of July 4 and Christmas.  
Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi.  
The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

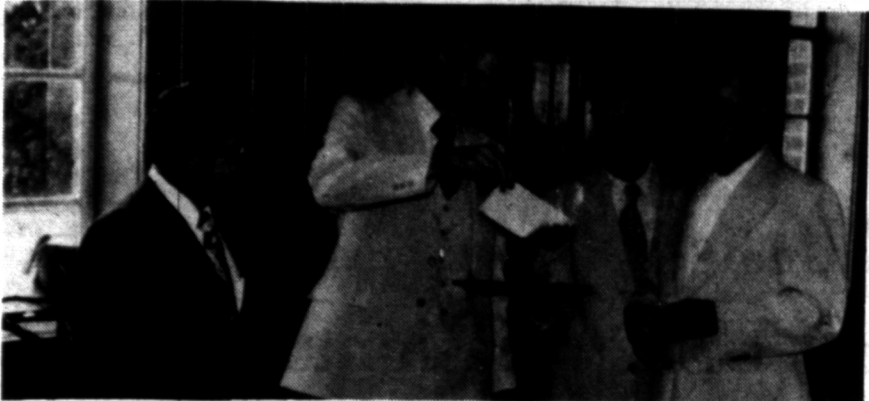


# Just For The Record . . .



SUNDAY SCHOOL		CHURCH TRAINING	
ATTENDANCE	403	ATTENDANCE	210
OFFERING	391	OFFERING	206
MEMBERSHIP	338	MEMBERSHIP	106
NEW MEMBERS	259	NEW MEMBERS	34
TOTAL	\$4599.00	TOTAL	125

ATTENDANCE RECORDS for Sunday School and Church Training were set at MT. ZION CHURCH, Columbus, on Aug. 19. Shown are (left) Ron Colburn, Church Training director, and (right) Gary Chism, Sunday School director. The high attendance emphasis began a revival that resulted in 77 PROFESSIONS OF FAITH and many other decisions. The church is located in New Hope community, east of Columbus. The pastor is Ray Hill.



EASTVIEW CHURCH, LAUREL had a note-burning ceremony Aug. 26 to celebrate pay-off of the church debt. This was followed by a covered-dish luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Left to right: Charles Taylor; Danny Henderson, pastor; Troy Walters; and E. J. Kirkland.



RULEVILLE CHURCH dedicated a new 15-passenger 1979 Dodge van on Aug. 12. The vehicle was bought for \$10,544. The pastor, A. M. Moore, III, says it will be used in youth, education, and outreach ministries.

Christian Religious Art Show Poplar Springs Drive Church Meridian is sponsoring a religious art show Oct. 14-19 in its Christian Life Center. Categories include art from grades 1-6, 7-12, and adult. Judging will be

held and ribbons awarded. On Sunday evening, Oct. 14, a special worship, featuring Sam Gore, Professor of Art at Mississippi College, will be held in the sanctuary.

## Names In The News . . .



**Bernard Blackwell**, Director of Alumni Affairs at Mississippi College (left) recently accepted on behalf of the college an unrestricted gift in church bonds from Dr. William H. Fancher, a 1952 graduate. Dr. Fancher is also a 1956 graduate of the Baylor University Medical School in Anesthesiology. He is now associated with the Doctors Hospital in Jackson as the Director of Anesthesiology.

**Truett Myers** of Fort Worth has been named communications consultant at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., by President Russell H. Dilday Jr. The appointment is for the 1979-80 academic year.

In announcing the appointment, Dilday said Myers would review, evaluate and explore present and potential communications strategies relating to all areas of the seminary, including equipment, instruction, promotion, fund raising and denominational relations. Myers, a Texan, retired July 31, 1979, as senior vice president for

production services at the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. He has more than 30 years of experience in telecommunications for the SBC.

Georgia native **Thomas A. Kinchen** has been named as administrative assistant to the executive vice president of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Kinchen, who is from Thomasville, Ga., will serve primarily as church work consultant in the public relations office of the Seminary. He will be dealing with churches which submit requests for names of students and alumni for consideration for church staff positions. Other responsibilities will include public relations and student recruitment duties.

Kinchen replaced Eddie Gandy, who resigned to become pastor of the Stephendale Baptist Church, in Baton Rouge, La.



**Luther M. Dorr**, newly elected member of the Instructional Staff of the School of Christian Training and former pastor of the Severna Park

**Calvary Church**, Route 4, Forest, will have homecoming Sept. 30. Ronald Foshee, a former pastor, will bring the morning message. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall.

Afternoon services will begin at approximately 1:30. All former pastors have been invited and will be given an opportunity to speak. Special music will be provided.

Jerry Lundy, pastor, and members invite everyone to attend.

Debbie Brittain is chairman of the Homecoming Committee.

**Wahalak Church**, Kemper County, has entered into a building program to construct a new church. The original Wahalak Baptist Church was organized around 1834, and re-organized in 1945 after several years of being inactive. In 1840, it was the site of the state Baptist convention meeting. The old church building burned in 1953, and since that time an abandoned schoolhouse has been used. The church has 60 members and an average Sunday morning attendance of 30. O. P. Moore is interim pastor.

**Wake Forest, N. C. (BP)** — A \$100,000 challenge grant has been awarded to Southeastern Seminary. Funds will be used to renovate Lea Laboratory, an historic building on the seminary campus. Built in 1888, Lea Laboratory was the first building devoted exclusively to the study of science on a college campus in the southeastern United States. Located on the former campus of Wake Forest College, it is regarded as an unusually early and scholarly example of Colonial Revival architecture and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U. S. Department of the Interior. While serving the college and seminary in a variety of ways, the building, because of disrepair, is currently unused. Renovation is expected to cost \$500,000.

**Truth**, a group of 16 professional musicians, will be in full concert at First Church, Jackson, on Oct. 5 from 10:30 p.m. until 12 midnight after football games in the city.

**Brooksville Church** will observe Homecoming on Sunday, Sept. 30. The speaker will be Carey Cox, who was pastor of the church in 1935. Barbecue with all the trimmings will be served at the church at noon. An associational hymn sing will be held at 3 p.m. Former pastors and members are invited.

**Church in Severna, MD**, is pictured as he signs the Statement of Religious Beliefs at the 62nd annual Convocation of the New Orleans Seminary. Dorr, a native of Sardis, Miss., participated in the traditional signing ceremony along with four other professors who have been called into service within the last year. — (N.O.B.T.S. Photo by Jimmy McFatter)

**Mrs. Doris E. Posey** of Yazoo City, member of Center Ridge Church, has again joined the Mission Service Corps, to go to Israel for a year. Her assignment will be that of a cook for Baptist Village at Central Sharon, Israel.

Her room and board and local transportation will be provided by Baptist Village. Her transportation and incidental expenses of \$2,165.50 will come from undesignated Mission Service Corps gifts.

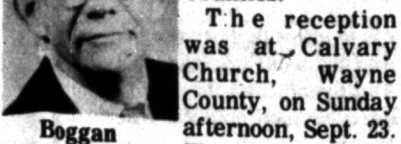
This is the second volunteer mission assignment that Mrs. Posey has had. Last year she worked for a short time at the European Baptist seminary in Switzerland. She plans to arrive in Israel Oct. 1.

### 25th Anniversary

**Parkview Church**, Leland, will celebrate its 25th anniversary and homecoming Sunday, Sept. 30. A former pastor, Jimmy Irving, will preach at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall. The Stokes Trio from Greenville will sing in the afternoon. Billy Purser is pastor.

## Wayne-Clarke Missionary Will Retire

The Wayne County Association gave a reception in honor of Wilson W. Boggan and Mrs. Boggan, upon his early retirement as director of missions for Wayne and Clarke Counties.



**Boggan** The reception was at Calvary Church, Wayne County, on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 23. The retirement, effective Sept. 30, is for health reasons.

Boggan has been director of missions for Wayne and Clarke Counties since 1970. Before then he had been director of missions for Wayne and Greene, and also for George Association.

From 1948 to 1965 he was general missionary to Indians of Oklahoma under the Home Mission Board, SBC.

A native of Mendenhall, he was ordained by the Macedonia Church, Simpson County. He graduated from Pinola High School, John Brown University at Siloam Springs, Ark., and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. He attended Chaplain School, Harvard University.

During World War II he was a chaplain for two years. He received five Battle Stars and a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service in connection with military operations in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany.

He is married to the former Wilma Albritton of D'Lo. They have four children.

## Bowlin Will Dedicate New Piano

**Bowlin Church**, Attala County, will dedicate a new Baldwin piano on Sept. 30 at the 11 a.m. worship hour.

The piano was bought above regular budget offerings. This was made possible by a special piano fund provided by members, former members, and friends of the church.

September 30 will also be Building Fund Day at Bowlin. Guest singers will be the Ladies' Trio from Second Church, Kosciusko.

**Bowlin Church** recently dedicated a new education building, 36 x 44 feet, of heavy metal construction. The facility provides nursery, classrooms, kitchen, bathrooms, and fellowship hall. The original indebtedness was \$24,000. This has been reduced to less than \$10,000, since Dec. 1, 1978. Construction was completed in the spring of 1979.

Walter Hines, pastor, says that what has been accomplished at Bowlin in the past three years "is not the work of man altogether. While God uses men, He must receive all credit and glory. Truly, what has happened is positive proof that Bowlin is the church that 'refused to die.'"

## Shady Grove Will Celebrate 125th Year

**Shady Grove Church**, near Bogue Chitto, is celebrating the 125th anniversary of its founding, on Sunday, Oct. 7.

The homecoming services will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. "We will be working to have more than 100 people present for Sunday School on this day," states Eddie Graves, pastor.

Special guest speaker for the morning service will be John Flowers, pastor of First Church, Senatobia. He was pastor there for eight years during which time Shady Grove celebrated its 100th anniversary. This service will be followed by dinner-on-the-grounds.

Afternoon plans include singing and the dedication of a new piano and organ speaker.

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## Revivals

**Silver Springs, Progress (Pike):** Oct. 7-12; services at 7:30 p.m.; Bob Mounts, First Church, Louisville, evangelist; James M. Thornhill, Silver Springs pastor, song leader.

**Trace Ridge Church (Hinds-Madison):** Sept. 30 - Oct. 5; Jerry Odom, Humble, Tx., evangelist; Don Moore, Aberdeen, music evangelist; services 7:30 p.m.; Rodrick Conerly, pastor.

## Homecoming

**Stonewall Church in Simpson County** will celebrate homecoming day on Sunday, Sept. 30. Troy Grubbs, pastor, Jupiter Church, Simpson County, will preach at the morning service. Lunch will be served at the church, followed by a song service in the afternoon. Bobby Jones is the pastor.

## Harvest Day

**Wiggins Church**, Leake County, will observe Harvest Day Oct. 7, with regular services and lunch at the church at noon. The Rosetones will sing during the afternoon. Carlton Jones is pastor.

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5  
Thursday, September 27, 1979

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Interest Rate will be Set at  
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## Staff Changes

**Frank Harmon** is new pastor of First Church, Purvis. Harmon received his high school education in Meridian. He attended Mississippi College and received his Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

He moved to Purvis from Magnolia Street Church, Laurel. Harmon and his wife Nancy have one daughter, Betsy, age 3. Mrs. Harmon will teach in the Purvis school system.

**S. W. Davis, Jr.**, pastor of the Gunnison Church, has resigned to accept the call of Springdale Church, West, in Atlanta Association. He has served churches in the Bolivar Association for the past six years, and is presently Brotherhood Director of the Bolivar Association. While in Bolivar, Davis served on

the BSU committee to dispose of the old center and to let the contract for the new BSU Center at Delta State University.

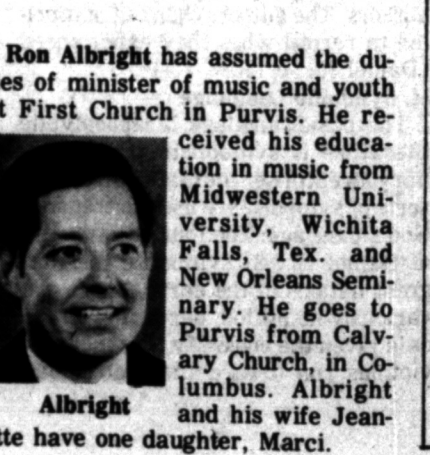
Davis attended Clarke and Blue Mountain colleges.



**Bill Rice** is the new minister of music and youth at Trinity Church, Pearl. He moved there from Crestwood Church, Jackson. He and his wife, the former Debbie Power of Weir, live in Pearl. He has served several churches in the last nine years, among them Sherman, Springdale, Ripley, and Gallman.

**Carol Vogel** of Petal Harvey Church, Petal, Miss., was among participants in Bible drill during the Church Training Leadership Youth Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, in New Mexico, July 28-Aug. 3. Carol was the winner of the Mississippi Bible drill competition.

**Ron Albright** has assumed the duties of minister of music and youth at First Church in Purvis. He received his education in music from Midwestern University, Wichita Falls, Tex. and New Orleans Seminary. He goes to Purvis from Calvary Church, in Columbus. Albright and his wife Jeanette have one daughter, Marci.







# SCRAPBOOK

## The Late Apple Tree

I have an autumn rendezvous;  
The lanes of brown and gold are kind—  
They know I'm only passing through  
Until in sharp relief I find

The old house place where chimney  
rocks,

A myrtle tree, some bits of hedge  
Seem all that's left, 'til cloistered spot  
And cardinal bright upon a ledge

Where once had rested on her face  
Full autumn's blush, my apple tree—  
On mossed gray limb, the only trace  
One cluster thin still waits for me.

—Valerie Boyd Howell

## Beautiful Are They

Beautiful faces are they that wear  
The light of a pleasant spirit there;  
Beautiful hands are they that do  
Deeds that are noble, good, and true;  
Beautiful feet are they that go  
Swiftly to lighten another's woe.

—McGuffey's Second Reader.

## September

Haze hangs heavy in the hollows  
heady grapes fall purple  
from the vines  
crepe myrtle carpets the bare earth  
pungent pale althea  
turns to wine  
sumac blazing crimson by the  
roadways  
butterflies pirouetting in the sun  
God's ethereal palette turns to flame  
all these simple composites  
say it's September again

—Helen Flechs Monroe

## God's Glory

Once I stood — upon a hill  
And watched the sun go down.  
The aurora flamed across the sky  
In tones of green and kins of brown.

Distant purple mountains tinged with  
gold—

At their feet the sunlit lake of old  
The colors fade, and one last gleam  
Speaks of God's handiwork supreme.

The shadows creep across the vale,  
Changing the hues to one.

God in His glory reviews  
His work in the setting of the sun.

—Cleone W. Langley

## Gulfshore

I went last week to Gulfshore,  
And I spent some time in prayer.  
I had lost some enthusiasm,  
And I really found it there.

We worshipped, and we sang,  
And we went to classes, too.  
And we studied the word of God,  
Because we know it's true.

There were blue skies and white  
sands,  
And friendly voices talking.  
Exercise is good for us,  
So we spent our spare time walking.

I needed rejuvenation,  
And I truly found it, too.  
Why don't you take a trip there?  
It could do the same for you.

Madge Gill

## Good News

Out of darkness into marvelous light;  
Blindness healed into glorious sight;  
The Gospel of Christ revealed to me  
Richly and mercifully that I might see.

—Sarah Peugh

## Guerrillas Close Baptist School In Rhodesia

SANYATI, Zimbabwe Rhodesia (BP) — Guerrillas closed the Baptist Elementary and High Schools in Sanyati, Zimbabwe Rhodesia, Aug. 20, following the last day of classes for the first term.

A group of 12 to 15 guerrillas visited the school that evening, talked to students and staff and told them the school would not be allowed to operate the next term, said Marion G. (Bud) Fray Jr., the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's field representative for Southern Africa.

The guerrillas were not violent, he said, and expressed a desire that the Sanyati Baptist Hospital continue operating.

The school board scheduled a meeting Aug. 25 to consider alternate locations for offering the last term of this year to grades 10 and 12, Fray said.

Students in those grades must take qualifying exams for entrance into the next level at the end of their final term.

In 1977, seniors at the Sanyati school, the nation's only Baptist high school, scored highest in the nation on graduation exams used throughout Africa and Europe to determine qualification for graduation and to measure scholastic achievement.

In another incident in mid-July, guerrillas took about \$1,600 and medical supplies worth another \$350 to \$400 from the compound.

The school and hospital have been operating under local Baptist leadership. Transfer to local leadership was accelerated in June 1978, when the guerrilla murder of Southern Baptist missionary Archie G. Dunaway Jr. caused missionaries to evacuate the compound.

## Students Eyeing Church Vocations Total 17,157

NASHVILLE — The number of Southern Baptist students preparing for church vocations surged by 3,378 last year to 17,157, a Southern Baptist Sunday School Board survey for the year ending April 30 revealed.

"It appears that Southern Baptists' commitment and support to the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis is having its effect on college students," said Charles Roselle, National Student Ministries (NSM) secretary.

An increase in mission support was also seen as the number of students involved in Baptist Student Union missions increased by 769 to a total of 5,064 this year.

The summer mission participation breakdown was — 409 students involved in Home Mission Board areas; 105, Foreign Mission Board areas; and 4,868, state projects.

## Leland Webb Named Editor Of Commission

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Leland F. Webb, 15-year veteran of The Commission magazine staff, has been named editor-designate of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's monthly publication.

Webb, managing editor since 1970, will assume full editorship Feb. 1, 1980, following the retirement of long-time editor Floyd H. North, according to Thomas W. Hill, communications department secretary. North, 65, came to the board in 1957 and has edited the publication for the last 20 years.

Webb, 47, said The Commission will "continue to try to serve the audiences we have with greater currency, dealing with subjects of current interest."

The magazine's goal, he noted, is for each issue to contain something of interest for every reader, aiming at a variety of topics.

A native of McAlester, Okla., Webb is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee. He received the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary.

Before joining The Commission staff as production editor in 1964, he was assistant editor of the Baptist Messenger, weekly paper of Oklahoma Baptists.

## Devotional

## One Pearl Of Great Price

By E. Z. Byrd, Pastor  
Clear Creek Church, Wayne County  
Matt. 13:45-46

The merchant man is Christ. He found one pearl (the church) of great price, and sold his glory in Heaven to



Byrd

purchase us. There are some things of great importance to consider here.

1. There is only one goodly pearl. This means of fine quality and unique. There is nothing else like it.

2. It is not compared to a diamond that can be cut and made into several diamonds by the hand of the artists. The pearl cannot be cut. It will grow but never decrease. The true church never decreases, it increases.

3. The pearl is formed as the result of an injury. A grain of sand or some foreign particle lodges in the moving part of an oyster shell and the pearl is formed by accretion. It is

not formed mechanically but vitally.

The church is formed because of an injury to Christ, as is formed vitally.

4. The pearl drains its substance from the oyster, never to be restored. We, as a church, drain our substance from the Lord, and we can't repay Him.

Among the things He gave up, or sold, was his riches. II Cor. 8:9 — For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

The New Testament does not say Christ lived for us, or thirsted for us, or became weary or was tempted for us. Although all this is true, it repeatedly says he died for us. To be more precise he died for our sins.

To us it is come and get.

To Christ come and give.

It is my prayer, and I'm sure the prayer of all Christian people, that we can feel we might repay a small token, by spreading the gospel to some lost soul. That's the Pearl of GREAT PRICE.

## Decency Group Asks November CBS Boycott

A Mississippian, Donald Wildmon, is promoting an effort to boycott CBS Television during all of November. Wildmon is executive director of the National Federation for Decency, which has its national headquarters in Tupelo.

He is suggesting the November boycott because that is the month when national ratings are done, he said. The focus of his complaint is the made-for-television movie based on the novel, *Flesh and Blood*. Wildmon declares that an incest scene which was supposed to have been deleted from the movie will be left in.

Dallas (EP) — The Islamic Association of North Texas has purchased a site here for a \$1 million center to serve the estimated 5,000 Muslims in the Dallas area. The center will house a mosque with a minaret, a school, a library and a clinic, said Mohammed Suleman, chairman of the coordinating committee of the project.

## Mississippians Among 32 US-2 Missionaries

ATLANTA, (BP) — They hail from New York to Hawaii, from Florida to Washington. They'll work in ghetto gyms and stylish hotels, on sun-washed beaches and college campuses.

Their common denominator is love. The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board recently commissioned as US-2 missionaries 32 young college graduates who will spend the next two years serving in mission endeavors all across the United States.

The bright, ambitious young people have postponed careers and continued education to spend 24 months in a program which resembles a Christian Peace Corps. They'll receive only subsistence wages, but they'll get lots of experience and work.

Their reasons are varied: "Love for my fellowmen and a desire to help them experience the love that Christ has for them," is the reason forwarded by Bill Mead, a native of Tampa, Fla., now serving in Wilmington, Del.

Mark Spain, from Gulfport, Miss., was moved by a "desire to minister and do some pioneer mission work."

Spain and his wife, Cathy, will be involved in language missions work in Portland, Ore.

Other of the short-term missionaries wanted to test the waters before making permanent career decisions. For some, it was an opportunity to see if they wanted a Christian vocation as their life's work.

"US-2 is a good opportunity to experience pioneer home missions work before a life-long commitment is made," said Carl Hartness, a native of Atlanta, Ga., who will work with young people in Buffalo, N. Y.

Some volunteers, such as Mark Walters of Huron, S. D., applied for acceptance in the program because of a desire to "learn and grow while serving, before seminary." Walters will work in Yosemite National Park.

Others applied and decided to accept appointment simply because they saw a need.

The 32 new US-2 missionaries were commissioned during services at First Baptist Church of Westminster, S. C., and participated in a week long orientation at Georgia Baptist Assembly at Toccoa before going to their fields of service.

## Life and Work Lesson

## Witnessing By Dying

By W. Thomas Baddley  
First Church, Brandon  
Philippians 1:19-26;  
II Timothy 1:11-12; 4:6-8

Much has been made of the final concert by the late Elvis Presley. His final song, replayed on TV so many times, begins with the words: "And now, the end is near..." It continues until he sings the title: "I Did It My Way." In light of recently revealed information about Elvis' drug use, it would seem that his way wasn't very pleasant. Paul asserted that though the "end is near," he had done it Christ's way; or rather Christ, himself, had done it through Paul.

I. Triumphant Witnessing Among Difficulties (Philippians 1:19-23) Paul was concerned about facing his ordeal. He doesn't seem to have any real feeling of how it would turn out — release from prison or execution. Instead, he looked for "deliverance" in its fullest meaning, whatever the outcome.

Though he was in a difficult position, Paul's concern was not for his own physical well-being, but rather he expressed a strong desire that his every act and word would continue to "magnify Christ boldly." This was the same goal toward which he had set his course since his conversion on the road to Damascus. Paul's fate as a man was of secondary concern. He wanted to honor Christ "whether it be by life or by death" (v. 20).

Paul did not fear death, nor did he seek escape from life's hardships via death. To him, death was the gateway to a fuller existence than the full life he had already known in Christ. If he should die, Paul knew he would experience heightened life because he would be with Jesus.

He admitted in verse 23 that if he had the choice of continuing life on earth or continuing life with Christ through his human death, that he would lean toward death. (The word translated "to depart" in verse 23 was a military term that meant "to break camp and move on.") This appealed to Paul.

## II. Living For Others

No matter how enticing he found death to be, Paul remembered that his ministry was "others"-centered. He was sent not for his own personal comfort, but to tell others (like the Philip-

pians) about Jesus.

Until God called him to heaven, Paul looked ahead to further earthly ministry. So, in this letter, he anticipates a return, a coming again to the friends and prospects of Philippi. And he assured them that when he arrived, he would have more reason to glory in Jesus Christ.

## III. Confidence In Christ

(II Timothy 1:11-12)

The cause of Paul's sufferings is plainly stated. He was persecuted because he was a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ and a teacher of the Gentiles. Yet, instead of despising the cause, he rejoiced in the sufferings. "I am not ashamed," he proclaimed, because "I know whom I have believed."

Paul's confidence and trust was not placed in facts he had studied and learned. Paul placed his confidence in a person that he knew personally. To this point, Christ had proved trustworthy in sustaining Paul, helping him, keeping him, and Paul was not about to quit now.

"I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day." Paul had committed his earthly life to the service of Christ and trusted Jesus to continue it as long as God desired. He had also committed his eternal life to Jesus by faith and was trusting him to keep Paul as a part of the Heavenly Kingdom here on earth until God's time to "transfer" him to the heavenly realm.

Paul's belief in Christ had been tested by experience and he continued to trust God's ability to safeguard Paul's investment of his life and energies.

## IV. Sealing Witness With Martyrdom

(II Timothy 4:6-8)

God's grace is more than the forgiveness of sins. It is also continuing help, support, strengthening and guidance through Christians' earthly ministries. In facing the final ordeal of pending execution, Paul experienced God's grace enabling him to look in the face of death victoriously. He rejoiced in the assurance that neither death nor life could separate him from God's love.

These verses (vv. 6-8) ring with finality. At last God was redirecting Paul. The ministry through Paul's body to the Gentiles was over. Now, his

"spiritual children" would carry it on, for Paul was near the end of earthly life. "I am ready." What glorious words! Can you say them?

"I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith." These equally important statements humble and challenge us. Many have prepared for the end of life by trusting Christ for forgiveness of sins. The gift of eternal life is secured. But, how many have turned their lives obediently to the Lordship of Christ — fighting the fight well, running on the track that Christ prescribes, keeping the faith, not possessively but publicly? It is a challenge and an inspiration. Let's not just read it and pass on to tomorrow untouched by its potential effect on our lives.

Whenever and however, Paul was ready to seal his life of incredible labor and sufferings with martyrdom. Truly, Paul "kept the faith."

## Chickasaw Has Seminary Center At Houston

The Chickasaw County Baptist Association is sponsoring a Seminary Extension Center in the county. This is their second year in operation. Last year they had one semester with two courses offered. There were 30 people who enrolled in both classes.

This school year they plan three semesters with two courses offered each semester. The first semester began Sept. 4 at First Church, Houston. On the first night 32 students enrolled.

There were six enrolled in the Bible course, "How to Understand the Bible." The teacher for this course is Bruce Cappleman, pastor, First Church, Houlika.

David Larrimore, minister of music for Calvary Church, Tupelo, is teaching a music class, "Fundamentals of Music," with 26 enrolled.

David Norris, pastor of Bethel Church, is the center's director. Before moving to Bethel, Norris was director of Quitman County Seminary Extension Center for four years.

## Uniform Lesson

## Visions Of The Heavenly Kingdom

By Ed North, First, Quitman  
Daniel 7:8; Revelation 4

Perhaps the initial appeal of Daniel and Revelation is to the child within us — the special delight of knowing and sharing a secret. When I was a boy I saved cereal box tops to send in for a Super Spy Decoder Ring. With this ring I could send secret messages to my playmates who were similarly equipped, and decode any item they sent to me. No one else could understand our correspondence. Children are enamored of this sort of thing.

Careful study, however, soon reveals that Daniel and Revelation have nothing to do with child's play. They deal with the critical issues of life and eternity. Only the immature get hung-up on all the "Decoder Ring" aspects of the books. The more mature attempt to come to grips with the basic truths God wants to convey through these specialized writings.

Daniel and Revelation fall into the category of literature known as apocalyptic. The word comes from the Greek term meaning "to unveil" or "reveal." The indication, therefore, is that we are intended to grasp the truths set forth. In order to do so, however, it is essential that we understand the nature of apocalyptic literature. The major characteristics of this literature are demonstrated in our scripture passages.

## I. Visions and Raptures

Daniel's dreams and visions were the vehicles through which God communicated his message (7:1-2, 7, 13; 8:2, 15f). Similarly, John was "in the spirit" (indicating a rapture-like state) when God unveiled the glories of heaven to him (4:1f; see also 1:10). The messages of apocalyptic writings are typically set in a framework of visions and raptures experienced by the authors. The authors then felt compelled to record what they experienced (Daniel 7:1; cf. Rev. 1:11).

## II. Symbolic Language

The basic language of apocalyptic literature is symbolism. Extraordinary creatures, animals, birds, all sorts of symbols, are used to transmit God's message. The four great beasts of Daniel (7:3-8) symbolize the four great nations of the earth. These are variously identified, depending on the date given the book. My personal convictions run toward the Maccabean

period (167-63 B.C.), which would label the beasts as Babylon, Media, Persia, and Greece. The "little horn" (7:8) would be Antiochus Epiphanes who wrought terrible persecution among the Jews and desecrated the altar in the holy of holies.

That Revelation is communicated in "sign" language is plainly stated in the very first verse. Two examples from chapter four will suffice. The twenty-four elders are generally understood as the twelve patriarchs (or tribes) of the Old Testament, and the twelve apostles of the New Testament. Thus, all the saved of all the ages are represented before the throne of God in glory. The four beasts (cf. Ezekiel 1), so vividly described, reflect the total created order giving praise and adoration to the Sovereign God.

The reason for symbolism is obvious. The people of God were being persecuted during the writing of both books. These messages were sent in "code" which the enemy would not comprehend, but which the faithful would understand. The most serious abuses of apocalyptic writings evolve out of efforts to make the symbolic over into the literal.

## III. History and Eschatology

Apocalyptic writing emphasize eschatological hopes and expectations. Last things provide a point of focus. However, it must be made clear that the historical context provides the key to interpretation. Too many "students of prophecy" rush quickly into the future without so much as a glance at the past. The result is radical, misleading interpretations of Scripture.

Daniel sees the four beasts, representing four nations of history, against the background of the ultimate victory of the "Ancient of days," "one like the Son of man," and "the saints of the most High" (7:9, 13, 18). John pictures the struggles of persecuted Christians with the "beast" of the Roman Empire against the backdrop of the ultimate victory of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (11:15). In apocalyptic literature, therefore, present struggles and problems are seen in light of the end of history.

## IV. Purpose and Theme

The purpose of apocalyptic literature is often severely distorted and twisted. It is reduced to a bird's-eye

view of the end of time. Interpreters read into the images and symbols their own preconceptions of the consummation. They rip Daniel and Revelation (portions of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel, and Zechariah are also apocalyptic) from their historical moorings. In doing so the primary purpose of the writings is lost in the shuffle.

These books were written to give comfort and encouragement to God's persecuted people. Daniel insists that, no matter what their present condition might be, "the saints of the most High shall... possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever." (7:18). John portrays the redeemed of all the ages in the glory of heaven's throne room (chapter 4). The intent is to provide comfort and assurance to the faithful.

The grand theme, therefore, is the triumph of the Sovereign God. The "beasts" of the earth, under the tutelage of the "old dragon" himself may oppress, even slaughter, the people of God. But God, in and through His Messiah, will shatter the powers of evil within the context of history, and ultimately defeat those powers in eternity. The faithful will be vindicated in their suffering, and will reign victoriously with Him who sits upon the throne of time and eternity.

## Conclusion

When the nature of apocalyptic literature is understood the writings become dear to us all. We are not to flee from the complexities of books like Daniel and Revelation. With patience, humility, reverence, spiritual sensitivity, and sound scholarship we are to grasp the truths God has for us. Every Christian is meant to understand the "code."

"Though we all complain about taxes, few of us realize that the third largest governmental expense is the removal of solid wastes. Getting industry to reuse those newspapers, magazines, and cartons can help. Already, over 3,000 women's and civic groups have begun letter-writing campaigns to manufacturers and shopper education programs. To find out how your shopping habits can aid the environment, write to: Environmental Shopping, 645 Madison Avenue, Ninth Floor, New York, New York 10022." (Family Circle, June 26, 1979)